The Columbus meeting of user groups!
Four states were represented. Those pictured here are:

Mowgli Assor, ATSU (OH)   Donald Guess Jr., ATSU   Maggie Stewart, ATSU   Judy Muir, 4C, PACC, WCUC (PA)

Frank Davis, ISTUG (IN)   Paul Holmgren, ISTUG   Jeffrey Moore, SyncWare News (OH) Basil Wentworth, SyncWare News

Andrew Kosiorek, GCSUG (OH)   Tom Jennens, GCSUG   Thomas Simon, GCSUG   Gary Ganger, DMA (OH)

James Dodrill, Louisville, KY   Edward Radtke, Louisville, KY   Robert Crecco, ISTUG (IN)   Ralph Vasco, 4C, PACC, WCUC (PA)

Not pictured: David Zimmerman, ATSU   James DuPuy, GCSUG

EAST SIDE meets in the Euclidian room at Euclid Square Mall
every FIRST Friday at 7:30 PM.   WEST SIDE meets at the Lakewood Public Library every THIRD
                                              Friday at 7:PM. FEB 19TH: AMSTRAD COMPUTER DEMO!!! PLEASE COME!!

THE TIMELINES BBS

PHONE:216-671-6922: 10PM-6AM EST: 8/1/N: 300/1200 BAUD: SYSOP: BOB PARISH

Computer Fest News

     The Florida March T/S Fest
is definitely on. Elsewhere in
this newsletter are details as
of Jan. 15th, that I downloaded
from the Compuserve T/S SIG.

     On January 30th, members
from various midwest T/S Users
Groups will meet in Columbus,
Ohio to discuss the feasibility
and scope of another midwest T/S
Fest. We hope to announce our
decision at the Florida Fest.

     West Coast Users are now
making plans for the 3rd Annual
Northwest T/S Mini Fair, with a
target date of August 1988.

TS 1500's and TS 2040's

     Electronic Surplus Inc. in
downtown Cleveland, 216-621-1052
has received a shipment of NEW
T/S 1500 Computers and 2040
Printers. They are selling them
in sets (computer & printer) for
$50.00. They are complete, in
original cartons, with power
supply, cables and manuals. How-
ever I believe the Timex new
product guarentee no longer
covers these products. This same
deal may also be available at
ESI's Florida affiliate.

     By coincidence, in the Feb.
issue of Computer Shopper,
American Design Components, 800-
524-0809, is advertising new
2040's at $40.00 each, and used
1500's also at $40.00. They
still are offering the PC8300
for $30 and a 16K Ram Pack for
$10.

Magazines:

     Lakewood International News,
on Detroit Avenue, is now
carrying a limited number of
copies of Sinclair Users
Magazine. They also carry
British magazines for "other"
home computers.

NEWSLETTERS

     IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE
"RAMTOP" RETURN TO A MONTHLY
PUBLISHING SCHEDULE, THEN PLEASE
SUBMIT ARTICLES, PROGRAMS AND
NEWS TO OUR EDITOR, Greg DuPuy.

Newsletters:

     For owners of the Zebra
(Timex of Portugal) Disk Drive
System, a monthly Newsletter is
now in circulation. For a copy,
write, with a SASE, to Ron
Havlen, 4307 Chambers Road,
Horseheads, New York, 14845.

     Another new promising quart-
erly publication is "TS 2068 Up-
Date". This newletter started
out covering the Oligar Disk
System, but has branched into
many 2068 areas. For a copy,
write to Bill Jones, 1317 Strat-
ford Avenue, Panama City, Fla.
32404. A sub. is $12 per year.

Hardware:

     Tim Stoddard, of 85-48 66th
Road, Rego Park, New York, 11374
has designed a battery powered
real time clock module for the
2068. I have had one working on
my system now for about six
weeks, and its still ticking.
There is a good description of
it on pages 23-25 of the March-
April '87 issue of time designs
magazine. Through various basic
routines, that can be inserted
in your program, 12 or 24 hour
time, plus the date, can be
printed to the screen, or
printer. Tim can build a custom
unit on perfboard, for you, for
about $40.00. The unit he made
up for me has a complete thru
buss card edge connector. This
unit would be ideal for anyone
running a BBS with a 2068. I use
it for time/date stamping my
disk catalogs.

AMSTRAD PC COMPUTER DEMO

     The Amstrad PC Clone Demo
by Gary Solomon, has been
postponed until our Feb. 19th
west side meeting, at the Lake-
wood Public Library. Because of
the limited time we have for the
meeting room, we will have Garys
presention before the business
meeting. If available, Gary
will bring the lastest model
with EGA graphics, and the new
portable briefcase unit. (no-not
the Z88). Gary has been selling
Sinclair products from the ZX-81
to the QL, plus the Memotech. So
he should be able to give us a
interesting cross-section view
of the Amstrad/Sinclair scene.

SUNSTATE T/S WINTERFEST '88
249 N. Harden Ave.
Orange City, FL 32763

Fellow T/S Users,

The Sunstate T/S Winterfest '88 will be hosted by four groups from around the state of Florida. We have people from Jacksonville to
pa and points between coming together to create the Winterfest.

This event will be held March 4,5 and 6, 1988 in Orlando, FL. at the beautiful Marriott Hotel. This is a luxury hotel of high calibr
hich is located on International Drive in south Orlando. The hotel offers 1,076 guest rooms nestled in 16 seperate two story building:
cluding 47 suites. Three heated outdoor pools, four lighted tennis courts, a hydrotherapy pool, winding jogging paths, plus a childrei
layground is provided for your comfort. Four Star dining can be enjoyed in the Grove or other fine restarants in the area. The exibih:
all is 99' X 66' with conference rooms across the hall for our other scheduled events. The Marriott is located just off Interstate 4 a
xit 29; Sand Lake Road and International Dr. We are recieving a special convention rate of $90 single or double, and $105 triple or c
occupancy. This makes a $26.25 per night rate possible if you share rooms. Remember, this is a LUXURY hotel. Several members of the r
tutive staff visited the hotel a few days ago and it is VERY nice. Please make your reservations as soon as possible directly at the I
l at 1-305-351-2420. The hotel management has agreed to hold a number of rooms for us, but they must be taken before mid-February. Be
e to ask for the special Sunstate T/S Winterfest rate! First night deposit is required. Many other hotel/motels are in the immeadiate
a.

Friday night things will get started with a cocktail party from 8 P.M. to 11 P.M. There will be a $10.00 charge to cover snacks, etc
here will also be a cash bar for those so inclined. This will be a great chance to meet the vendors and T/S programmers prior to the c
.

Saturday morning the show offically opens at 9 A.M. Vendors from around the country, along with users group booths will fill most c
e exhibit hall. However, there will be an area dedicated to a swap-meet. Doors will close at 9 P.M. Note: WE WILL NOT ALLOW ANY PRE-S
ING. This will ensure everyone a fair chance to get in on the best deals.

Sunday the doors open once again at 9 A.M. and will close promptly at 3 P.M. During the course of the weekend, various forums and c:
nces will be held with various topics and speakers. Smaller study groups are encouraged and always welcome.

Pre-registration for the weekend will be $5 for single or $9 family. At the door the cover will be 8$ single and $12 family. These ·
cover all events throughout the weekend with the exception of the cock ail party Friday night. Please use the registration form and r
checks payable to: Northeast Florida T/S Users Group.

The following is just a few of the vendors who plan on exihibiting: Varity Sales, Clifford & Grey, Zebra Systems, John Oliger Co.,A:
,Quantum Computing, Markel Enterprises, Curry Computing, TS-2068 Update, Foote Software, A.F.R. Software, Larken Electronics, Sharps :
, and Time Designs Magazine. We expect more vendors to register every day. Overseas dealers (appx. 25) have also been invited.

Image International Inc. a full service company has been chosen to make your planning easier. Image International will make your air
e reservations and guarantee the lowest airfares. They will be using Delta Airlines, but still will get you the lowest fare even if De
does not service your area. They also offer transportation from and to the airport for $10.per person. Compare this to $17 limo servi
or $25 taxi fare (one way) and you will find this a bargan. Please specify your choice of transportation when making your reservation:
th them. Auto rentals are available at reduced rates also. Image International has set up a toll free number for out of state calls !-
-351-1360. Florida residents please call 1-305-351-1360. We at the Sunstate Winterfest '88 feel that you will be very pleased with the
service.

The Sunstate T/S BBS is online 24 hrs., 7 days a week for additional information and up to the minute updates. Any questions or sug:
ions are welcome. The BBS is set up at 8,1,none 300 baud - call 1-904-775-0093.

Vendors please contact Steve Berg at 904-737-1538 or 6634 Oriole Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32216 for dealer registration details and ship
g information. Users groups are also encouraged to participate.

See you there!

M. L. Johnson
Chairman
Sunstate T/S Winterfest '88
249 N. Harden Ave.
Orange City, FL 32763

Cut out and mail to the above address

Name(s): _____

_____

_____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Do you belong to a users group? If so, please
list: _____

Greg:

I hope this gets to you
before this next issue goes to
press. I am enclosing my 1988
income tax program. It is too
long to be printed, but I want
to make it available to our mem-
bers. So please run the follow-
ing article. The tape is for
your own use and for West siders
to copy.

1988 INCOME TAX PROGRAM

Member Max Schoenfeld is
making his income tax program
available for all interested
members. Just bring a blank
tape to the next meeting and
copy it for yourself.

The program follows Form
1040 through Line 37.

Included are computations
for tax exempt interest, the 28%
limitation on tax on capital
gains, possible taxation of
Social Security, the legal
limits in IRA deductions, item-
izing deductions and for age and
blindness.

It does not help with other
tax forms (but does Schedule A)
nor does it deal with the earned
income credit, child care and
other credits.

The amount of tax is calcu-
lated using the Tax Rate Sched-
ules. Those with taxable income
less that $ 50,000 should use
the tax tables. The results
will be within a few dollars of
each other. Thus the program
will serve as a check on your
calculations.

Max is serving his 12th
year as an official tax volun-
teer, having to pass an IRS test
each year to qualify.

From the Editor:

Hope you had a GREAT holiday season! Mine was OK but ver
BUSY! I am changing a few things in the newsletter to "1?
it up a bit. I hope you like the digitized illustration. If
are interested in doing this yourself, all you need is a 2068,
VCR with pause or a camera, and a home made PC board tha
translates the vidio signal into 1s and 0s that the 206
converts to a screen. You can then save it to tape or disk
print it out on a 2040 or fullsize printer. See me about it
you are interested.

OK guys! I keep hearing that you want the RAMTOP every month
Well, I would like to put it out that often. The only problem
that 1- I usually don't have enough articles and 2- I am no
doing the whole job again! This means I edit, paste up, an
print out the original. I then do the coping at my shop at wor
At a low price. Then I do all the folding, stapling, stamping
and mailing. Since I also keep all the user group records,
also print the labels and keep track of who's paid up to dat
This means that I have much less time to devote to the editing
If ANY of you feel that you want to take any part (or all)
this over, GIVE ME A CALL! Shirley, my wife, is fed up with t
time I put into this. Someday, I will end up having to qu
altogether if I don't have some of this burden taken off me.
will be going into the busy time at work in another month. Th
will mean that I will be late with the newsletter. I real
don't want to down size it any because you all deserve the be
that I get out to you! If you will all cooperate and pitch
we can have a better RAMTOP. This will mean that when you
something new or have something of ANY interest, PLEASE share
in the form of an article! You may send it in any format th
you want. I will get it in. I would prefer either a tape wi
your article on Tasword or Mscript and the program on tape, b
if it easier for you to type it, that's fine too! Just lea
some space on the sides of the page. (about 1/2 inch) REMEMBE
THE RAMTOP IS ONLY AS GOOD AS YOU MAKE IT! I need 1000/15
articles and 2068 articles and programs the most. The majori
of you have 2068s but I get mostly articles on the QL. (QLer
don't stop sending those GREAT articles!) Well, Enough sai
You all know what's at stake so put some of those great ide
you all have on paper and send it in! SEND YOUR ARTICLES T
JAMES G. DUPUY, 6514 BRADLEY AVE. (DOWN), PARMA, OH, 44129.

I have an idea that may be of benifit to all in the TIM
comunity. Many of you have VCRs now that they have come down
price so much. I think that it would be a good idea that we th
have cameras or camcorders, put them to good use and vidio ta
"articles" that will be of interest to the rest of us. The
vidios need not be professional. They need only get a poi
across. As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words. See
how something works or seeing a problem is much easier
describe than tring to do it on paper. I will be glad to help
what limited way I can since I just got a camcorder mysel
Tapes can be copied and sent to other user groups. If you
interested is doing this, give me a call. MY PHONE: 216-661-4
We could have "vidio articles" on telecomunication, d
systems, iterfacing, hardware projects, ECT, ECT. I taped m
of the Columbus meeting (Jan 30) and will have it at the n
few meetings if any of you want to see it. Till next time!

Why Timelines.....BBS was Founded & What is Timelines....BBS ?

Timelines....BBS was founded out of frustration of not having a Timex/Sinclair BBS that I could log on to that spoke my language (Sinclairees). When I bought my TS-2068 computer and TS-2050 modem I thought that I could do some modeming like the Apple and I.B.M. computer users do. What I found was that there were not any local or long distance Timex/Sinclair BBS's for me with my Timex equipment to use. Sure, I could log on to any of the local (other systems type) BBS's and get wrap city or cut off with the "300 Baud Not Supported" message. When I did find a BBS that I could use locally, I still had to put up with 40 columns on a 32 columns screen.

The other users of that BBS were busy talking Apple in the message section and the files section held only Apple programs. I found out how to download some of them by opening up my buffer and having them (the BBS) send it as ASCII Code. Then I would print it out, convert it and key it into my TS-2068. If I did it right and was very lucky, it worked.

Now, times have changed and 64 columns terminal software with X-Modem and X-Modem with CRC file transfer capability is final here for the TS-2068 and Spectrum. The QL is here with it's 80/5 columns display and terminal software that makes I.B.M. users envious and has X-Modem file transfer capability also. It is finally feasible for the Sinclair user to upload and download programs from a Computer Bulletin Board Service.

Timelines.....BBS is a dedicated BBS for the Timex/Sinclair Computer Users. It operates in Cleveland, Ohio and serves all of the country. It is a Computer Bulletin Board Service for Sinclair, Timex Computers and it is free. It was set up mainly for our club, The Greater Cleveland Sinclair User's Group, but I found that most of it's users are out of state from all parts of the country. It is set up in a 64 columns format width wise and no more than 22 line feeds per page length wise. You the user can customize the screen format to suit your needs. From the main menu you can hit the L← prompt L key to set your page length, number of lines per page sent to you (one page is a screen length). From the main menu you can go to the utilities section by hitting the →U← U key and from that menu you can set your own screen width by selecting the number of columns from 72 to 0. This means that you can set up your own screen width and not get line wrap.

The message section is were you can enter messages and read messages either mail addressed to you, someone else or to all. Messages can be sent as private mail with security or none (open for all to read). The best kinds are the open messages. I have always liked to read the open messages and add my two cents to the conversations on BBS's that have open messages. I have met a lot of interesting and informed people that way. Besides, if they wanted it private to each other they can selected that mode when they close the message entered on the system.

That's how a Forum or Discussion is started in a message base about computer related topics. You would be surprised to see what you can learn or discover what you know that they don't that you can add and help others solve problems. It's called team work. Lots of times I have posted an open to the public plea for help with a problem I've had and have had many different answers. All good input! I have also added what I've thought might help someone else on those open forum type message bases. BBS message sections are a heck of a lot better than 976- RAP LINES for getting computer info! Now we have a medium for Timex/Sinclair Computer Information, each others experiences through a message base information exchange.

If you don't call it, you have missed out. If you do, why not lay down some modem tracks, enter a message to say you were there? Log on at 8/N/1 at either 300 baud or 1200 baud to be able to do X-Modem file transfers while on line. Hours of operation are from 10 PM to 6 AM Eastern Standard Time. Data Line 1-216-671-6922 - Timelines....BBS, Sysop is Robert Parish.

The Editor Special Edition V2.05

by David Hoshor

Digital Precision has produced its latest and last version of its text editor, The Editor Special Edition. They've really thrown in all the whistles and bells in version 2.05. There are major improvements and additions over previous editions of both the regular Editor and older versions of The Editor Special Edition. The Editor Special Edition only runs on QL's with expanded memory.

The Editor in all its editions differs greatly from Quill. The Editor is a 'pure' text editor. It doesn't disguise imbedded control characters within its text unlike the Quill which is a 'what you see is what you get' type text editor. Files generated with the Editor can be used as source listings for compilers, SuperBASIC programs, etc, as well as letters or other documents. You can't use the Quill for writing programs. The Editor also assumes that you are able to do some thinking for yourself in what you want to do with your text file. As a result, the Editor is fast - lightening fast if you compare it to the Quill. Not only is it fast, but it can do many things that the Quill just can't do.

As you'd expect of any text editor, The Editor Special Edition can set margins, indents, do left or right justification, etc. The Editor Special Edition's text block handling capabilities are especially strong. You can specify whether you want to work with blocks of lines, characters, or columns. By doing so, you can extract, move, or duplicate single sentences, tables of figures, blocks of spaces or whole paragraphs within a file. For example, you can make dual column text like this article very easily by just moving a block of text from the bottom to the side of the top of the article. One other unusual and handy block command is the ability to "sequence" or sort the lines within a block of text. This is great for making up alphabetized or numeric lists from text that is in no particular order. You can also specify the column on which you want the information sorted.

The Editor Special Edition has a method of running command files with a command interpretter. With this facility, you can automate repetive or frequent text editing tasks. The command interpretter isn't static, but can ask you for up to nine parameters, text or numeric, that can be used within your command file. A buzzer command has been added too. The buzzer can be used to prompt you for parameters, or notify you when a particularly long command file has terminated.

Unlike Quill, The Editor Special Edition, doesn't restrict you with various file naming conventions, endless prompting and hand holding. If you want to print a file you just go into the command mode (F3) and enter "w.ser" (write serial). That all there is to it. If you're unsure of any command, an online help menu is available at any time. The commands are listed together logically, cursor movement commands, block commands, insert commands, etc. There are a lot of commands you can use, but you can learn to use them at your own speed, and once you have learned a few commands, others follow naturally. The logic of their use is quite consistant from one command to another.

The Editor Special Edition is a multitasking program. Several copies of the program can exist in memory at once. You can use one copy to edit the main text of a file, another copy to handle the footnotes, and yet another to work on an index or table of contents. The Editor Special Edition now has commands to change the ink and paper colors, so one copy can use red ink, another green, etc., to distinguish which file you are editing if using more than on copy of The Editor at once. Additional memory management commands let you select the amount of memory The Editor sets aside for its use.

One shortcoming of previous editions of The Editor was that it didn't format its output for sending to a printer easily. It was left to the user to insert formfeeds where necessary. Digital Precision added a printer driver program to later editions, but it was cumbersome to use for any but the longest text files. The Editor Special Edition has added two new ways of sending text to printer with proper formfeeds. The easiest to use is by converting your text file into a "document" file. This is perfect for short multi-page simple files. The Editor adds formfeeds at the appropriate places automatically, and recognizes forced "hard" formfeeds that have been inserted by the user. The second method of formatting for the printer is to use an improved printer driver program that will automatically add headers, footnotes, page numbers, etc. The process is more difficult than the first one described, has to be run as a separate program, and is intended for more demanding text editing. My one gripe about the printer driver is that they didn't include one for Epson printers! You'll have to write your own printer data file for the most common printer going. Toshibas, Canons, and some oddball Seikoshas are used in their printer data sample files.

One minor but annoying problem has been solved in The Editor Special Edition. Previous versions only left one space between the period ending one sentence and the start of another sentence when the paragraph was reformatted. The new Editor now keeps two spaces after the period - if they were inserted in the first place.

Overall, I'm very pleased with The Editor Special Edition. The program is very fast and flexible. If you're fed up with Quill, The Editor Special Edition is for you. It's not cheap though; £49.95 if you buy it from Digital Precision, about $70 if you buy it from U.S. supplier. Digital Precision offers an upgrade to owners of earlier editions of The Editor. Check with them for detail.

The Trump Card

by David Hoshor

The Trump Card is simply the most useful single addition you get for the Sinclair QL. It combines a disk interface, 768 kilobyte RAM expansion, Toolkit II for SuperBASIC extensions, a screen dump, static and dynamic ramdisks and a dynamic printer buffer. When you consider that even the lowest cost 512 Kb RAM expansion and a disk interface will cost at least $250, and Toolkit II costs $70, the Trump Card is a bargain at $309.95. The entire unit only sticks out about three inches from the expansion port side of the QL, so it's compact. I got mine from Curry Computer in Glendale, Arizona.

The disk interface is pretty standard fare. It will allow you to store information on any combination of forty and eighty track drives, single sided or double sided, 5 1/4" or 3 1/2". The interface is fairly intelligent in that it will pick up on what format the disk was created in automatically. For example, if you have a 80 track, 5 1/4" double sided drive, the interface will automatically read from a 40 track, single sided disk. Of course, you can't make a single sided drive read from a double sided disk, or put a 3 1/2" floppy in a 5 1/4" drive since the interface can't change the limitations of your disk drives. But if you have an 80 track 5 1/4" double sided drive, you'll be able to read any disk with the exception of 3 1/2" disks. The interface is only able to support two floppy disk drives. That's its only shortcoming as far as I'm concerned.

The 768 Kb RAM expansion maxes out the QL. Added to the 128 Kb that are built into the QL, you have a whopping 896 Kb of (While the 68008 CPU can address 1 Mb of RAM, 128 Kb of memory in the QL are reserved for device addresses and ROMs.) You'll have room to run any program that has ever been written for the QL - probably several copies of the program. This can be very helpful on a multitasking machine like the QL. You'll also have plenty of room for ramdisks too.

The ramdisking capabilities of the Trump Card are really neat. The ramdisks come in two varieties, static and dynamic. The difference is that the static ramdisk has to be formatted, almost like a microdrive cartridge, and the dynamic ramdisk can be created by just using the device name. For example, to create a static ramdisk with two hundred, 512 byte blocks of space, just enter:

    FORMAT RAM1_200

A 100 Kb section of memory will be set aside for use by the machine to use just like a microdrive or floppy disk, but will be located in fast RAM. To create a file in dynamic ram, it's just as simple as using the device's name. To copy a file to ramdisk ram3_ just enter:

    COPY dev_filename to RAM3_filename

A bit of memory will be set aside in RAM as ram3_filename. It ll grow only large enough to hold the file(s) that have been d to ram3_. The difference between the static and the dynamic ramdisks is that the dynamic ramdisks are more likely to fragment the memory of the QL. If the memory becomes sufficiently fragmented, it can degrade the performance of the machine because the operating system will have to scrounge around to find blocks of memory. Up to eight ramdisks can be used with the Trump Card. One other neat feature of the ramdisk is that it can make a very fast image of everything on a microdrive. It will copy everything on the microdrive in just about fifteen seconds.

One of my favorite features of the Trump Card is its printer buffer. It's a snap to use and can really save time. In its simplest form, you just use the device name "PRT" instead of "SER". What happens is that whatever you are sending to the printer is sent in its entirety to a buffer in RAM. The QL then sends bytes to the printer as a background task. The advantage to this is that you can return almost immediately to an editing session if you send a file to "PRT" from The Editor or Quill. If you send a file to "SER" from an editor, you must wait until the printer has finished printing before you can continue editing. Several files can be sent to the printer buffer and they will be sent in the proper order. There is a method of changing the device that you want to have the "PRT" device use. Unless you have a parallel interface that doesn't use the serial port, it's hardly likely that you'll change it.

The printer dump is pretty good. It supports about any Epson dot matrix printer plus a few other printers including the Brother HR4, Olivetti JP101, Seikosha GP-100A, GP-250X, and GP-700A, and the Canon PJ1080A You can specify what section of the screen to copy, and there is a provision for using a "hotkey" to copy any screen from any program that you might be running. There's also documentation on how to open a printer device and get a printer dump from programs written in nearly any computer language - not just SuperBASIC. I've tried it from "C" and it does work.

Toolkit II is a collection of SuperBASIC extensions. Some of them are much more useful than others, but on the whole, they are very worthwhile. To me, some of Toolkit's most useful commands are "ed", a screen based SuperBASIC editor; "wcopy", a file copier that allows the use of wildcards; "wstat", a wildcard directory command that also provides the file size and last update time of files; "splf", another printer buffer or rather "spooler" that works great when used with "prt"; and an assortment of job control commands that allow the user to monitor, change the status of, and remove jobs that are the in the QL. Toolkit II allows the use of default directories, has clock features including alarm clock(s), has improved SuperBASIC error handling, permits the user to define "hotkeys", altkey/ single key combinations to enter large strings or commonly used commands, and has an easy way to repeat of the last command typed. Some of the more obscure commands deal with networking, direct unbuffered access to the various i/o devices, and memory management commands. All in all, its a pretty impressive array of extensions to SuperBASIC. Once you start using the Toolkit II commands, you'll never want to use a machine without them. An additional benefit of having Toolkit II fitted on the Trump Card is that it leaves the ROM cartridge slot on the back of the QL free for other ROMs.

When you consider the features that the Trump Card offers, I feel that it is an unbeatable combination.

USING QL C

by DAVID HOSHOR

PART FOUR: USING CRUN

The Metacomco C package for the QL includes SuperBASIC extensions for
emulating UNIX when running C programs.   The commands are CRUN and
CRUN_W.   Two major features of the UNIX operating system are the ability
to "redirect" the input and the output of a program, and the ability to
read the arguments passed to a program.

Redirection can be extremely handy.   Imagine that you have written a
program that reads characters from the keyboard, and echoes those
characters back to the screen in uppercase.   On a UNIX system, this same
program can read the input from a file or send the output to a file.
If the program were called "upper", the syntax to run the program to
take input from a file called "words" and send the output to a file
called "upper_words" would be:

     upper [arguments] < words > upper_words

The left arrow says take the input from "words" and the right arrow says
send the output to "upper_words".   The arrow is used to redirect the
standard input or standard output.   If only one arrow is used, e.g.

     upper [arguments] < words

the output goes to the screen, the standard output device.   The
[arguments] are optional and will vary from program to program.   Just as
an example, you might write your upper program so that if you use the
argument "-c" the output of the program is written as a single column of
uppercase words.

The ability to pass arguments and an argument count to a C program
allows a C program to do a variety of things depending on what arguments
are passed to the C program.

Metacomco's SuperBASIC extensions CRUN and CRUN_W allow a limited
facility for using UNIX-like feature.   The differences are significant,
but once you're aware of the differences, they are managable.   The
description of CRUN in section 1.4 of the Metacomco manual just says:

     CRUN "dev_myprog [arguments]"

What they don't say is that the arguments are entered in the reverse of
the way that that the arguments are typically entered on a computer
using the UNIX operating system.

To illustrate this point, enter the following program that converts
input into uppercase letters.   The program also reads arguments if any
are entered.

```
/*
 *   Short C program to see what is passed to C program in argv, argc
 *   when using Metacomco's CRUN
 */
```

```c
#include "flp1_stdio_h"
#include "flp1_ctype_h"

main(argc,argv)

int argc;                               /* Number of arguments passed to program */
                                        /* including the name of the program     */
char *argv[];                           /* Array of strings.  The arguments.      */
{
    char c;
    int i;

    for (i = 0; i < argc; i++)
        printf("arg %d: %s\n",i,argv[i]);

    printf("Argument count = %d\n",argc);

    while((c = getchar()) != EOF)
        putchar(toupper(c));
}
```

Compile and link the program. Let's assume the executable program
created in "flp1_test_bin". It can be executed by entering:

        exec flp1_test_bin

If you type a line of text, it will be echoed to the screen in caps.
If your cursor is flashing at the bottom of the screen, hit control C
until the cursor is flashing in the C default screen; then type text.
Then you are ready to exit from the program, type <ALT> z. It will
generate an end of file (EOF) character. You will notice that the
program prints:

        Argument count = 0

since no arguments were passed to it.

Now try using the CRUN command. Lets suppose that you want to capitalize
the file flp1_text and move the output to flp1_utext. On a true UNIX
system, you must enter your command something like this:

        flp1_test_bin [arguments] < flp1_text > flp1_utext   /* UNIX */

but on the QL you must enter

        CRUN "flp1_test_bin <flp1_text >flp2_utext [arguments]" /* QL C */

The "< flp1_text > flp1_utext" are NOT counted as arguments in UNIX, but
if you use the UNIX style syntax on the QL the file redirectors have no
effect and are counted as arguments. Only if you use the CRUN syntax
shown will the end result be the same as in UNIX. That is, file
redirection MUST be shown directly after the name of the program being
CRUN. Any other options described in the Metacomco manual (the
%workspace and =stackspace) MUST also come before the arguments to be
counted correctly. Another difference from UNIX is the file director
arrows MUST be right up against the filenames. In UNIX it's perfectly
okay to have spaces or tabs between the arrows and the file name(s).

One final difference is that if you use redirection of the input on the QL, you MUST redirect the output or otherwise the output will be appended on to the end of the input file. If you want the output to go to the screen, you must specify it by ">scr".

I know that all these differences may seem a bit daunting if you are just learning to use C and have a manual that describes C as run on a UNIX system. Admitted, it's nonstandard but the differences aren't so great they can't be overcome. Try running the little sample program and try using different ways of entering the command string. With a little trial and error, you'll be able to understand what the CRUN command is looking for, and be able to adapt it for UNIX type programs. Use a really short input file and try passing different arguments to the program. It doesn't hurt anything to pass unused arguments to a program.

FLASH ! ! ! The Toolkit Two exec, ex, exec_w, and ew commands can be used in place of the crun command! The upshot of this is that you can write C programs using argc and argv and redirection of files for users who don't have the QL C ROM, but do have Toolkit Two. The syntax in only slightly different than CRUN. The command

    EX flp1_test_bin ; "flp1_test_bin <infile >outfile [arguments]"

is read the same by the C program as the line

    CRUN "flp1_test_bin <infile >outfile [arguments]"

Experiment!

Here is a good utility for your 2068.
It came out of the D-FW DATA EXPANSION.
This is a newsletter from our friends
in Texas. Their address is: David Baulch,
4424 Geddes Ave., Fort Worth, TX, 76107
Their rates are $12/6 MO. It looks like
a GOOD publication.

****

SCREEN SPLITTER
By Craig Turner and Richard Fawley
From YS - December '87

Using this amazing screen splitting utility routine enables
you to save a SCREEN$ in one of 30 different ways, combinations
of top pixels, middle pixels, bottom pixels, and attributes.

To show you what good value we offer you, this is two
programs for the price of one. The main program lets you LOAD a
screen and SAVE it in the different combinations. The ORGANIZER
program shows you the program lines you must include in your
programs to LOAD the screen bits back again. The two totally
independent programs are menu driven, so just follow the screen
instructions.

NOTE: The loading of the screen bits is done in conjunction
with the Loader Code program - a few bits of hex that you can
load in with a hex loader or just bang them into memory with a
Multiface.

LOADER CODE

Here is the scrap of machine code which does some of the
work. Bang it through the Hex Loader and save it as:
SAVE "LOADCODE"CODE 60000,16.

```
60000: 373EFFDD21004811=715
60009: 0008CD5605C90000=505
```

SCREEN SPLITTER

Here is the main program. Just type it in and save it as:
SAVE "SPLITTER" LINE 9030.

```
1 REM BY CRAIG TURNER
2 REM       AND
3 REM    RICHARD FAWLEY
```

```
   4 REM FOR  YS 1987
   5 REM SCREENS SAVER
   8 REM DON'T CHANGE LINE NUMBERS.
   9 REM TO RE-RUN, GOTO 9030
  11 POKE 23658,8
  12 BORDER 0: PAPER 0: INK 7: CLS
  13 FOR X=5 TO 17
  15 PRINT AT X,7;"                 "
  16 NEXT X
  17 LET X=8
  18 PRINT #0;AT 0,0;"BY CRAIG TURNER & RICHARD FAWLEY"
  19 PRINT AT 2,7;"LOADING DEVICE :-";MDV
  20 PRINT AT 6,7; OVER 1;"   MAIN  MENU   "
  30 PRINT AT 12,7; OVER 1;" ATTRIBUTE SAVING "
  40 PRINT AT 8,7; OVER 1;"  LOADING SCREENS "
  50 PRINT AT 10,7; OVER 1;"  SCREENS SAVING "
  55 PRINT AT 14,7; OVER 1;"  PRINT SCREENS  "
  57 PRINT AT 16,7; OVER 1;"  CHANGE DEVICE  "
  60 PRINT AT X,7; INK 5; OVER 1;"
  70 IF INKEYS="6" THEN PRINT AT X,7; OVER 1; INK 7;"      ";
LET X=X+2: IF X>16 THEN LET X=8
  80 IF INKEYS="7" THEN PRINT AT X,7; OVER 1; INK 7;"      ";
LET X=X-2: IF X<8 THEN LET X=16
  90 IF INKEYS="0" THEN LET goto=X*100: GO TO goto
 100 GO TO 60
 790 STOP
 800 REM LOADING A SCREENS
 810 CLS: PRINT AT 0,10;"LOADING"
 820 INPUT "MDV OR TAPE (M/T) ";DS
 830 IF D$="M" THEN CAT MDV: INPUT "NAME ";N$: LOAD *"M";MDV;N$
CODE 50000
 840 IF D$="T" THEN INPUT "NAME ";N$: LOAD N$CODE 50000
 900 GO TO 1
1000 REM SCREENS SAVING
1001 CLS
1010 FOR X=3 TO 19
1020 PRINT AT X,7;"
1023 NEXT X: LET X=6
1030 PRINT AT 4,7; OVER 1;"   SCREENS MENU  "
1040 PRINT AT 6,7; OVER 1;"     NORMAL      "
1050 PRINT AT 8,7; OVER 1;"    TOP HALF     "
1060 PRINT AT 10,7; OVER 1;"   LOWER HALF    "
1070 PRINT AT 12,7; OVER 1;"    TOP THIRD    "
1080 PRINT AT 14,7; OVER 1;"  MIDDLE THIRD   "
1090 PRINT AT 16,7; OVER 1;"   LOWER THIRD   "
1095 PRINT AT 18,7; OVER 1;"   MAIN MENU     "
1100 PRINT AT X,7; OVER 1; INK 5;"
1110 IF INKEYS="6" THEN PRINT AT X,7; OVER 1; INK 7;"      ";
LET X=X+2: IF X>18 THEN LET X=6
1120 IF INKEYS="7" THEN PRINT AT X,7; OVER 1; INK 7;"      ";
LET X=X-2: IF X<6 THEN LET X=18
1130 IF INKEYS="0" THEN LET goto=X*500: GO TO goto
1140 GO TO 1100
1200 REM ATTRIBUTES
1210 CLS
1220 FOR X=7 TO 13
1230 PRINT AT X,7;"
```

'88 NORTH CLOAST COMPUTER FAIR

The 1988 Fair has been scheduled for the second week-end in October, on the 8th and 9th. Same place — Euclid Square Mall. We will spread out a bit to allow more space (the main problem last year).

MEMBER GETS MEDIA ATTENTION

Our own Toby Radloff, a long time member of the GCSUG, has become quite famous as Cleveland's contribution to the world of NERD's! Toby has been featured in comic strips by Harvey Pekar. He has been portrayed on the Washington stage in skits based on Pekar's "American Splendor". Then on December 13th Toby rated a full page spread in the Plain Dealer Sunday Magazine. How famous can you get?

Max

Your Editor:
James G. DuPuy

THE D-FW DATA EXPANSION

```
1240 NEXT X:
1250 PRINT AT 8,7; OVER 1;"    ATTRIBUTE MENU "
1260 PRINT AT 10,7; OVER 1;"        SAVE      "
1270 PRINT AT 12,7; OVER 1;"      MAIN MENU   "
1280 LET X=10
1290 PRINT AT X,7; OVER 1, INK 5;"
1300 IF INKEY$="7" THEN PRINT AT X,7; OVER 1, INK 7;"  ";
LET X=X-2: IF X<10 THEN LET X=10
1310 IF INKEY$="6" THEN PRINT AT X,7; OVER 1, INK 7;"  ";
LET X=X+2: IF X>12 THEN LET X=12
1320 IF INKEY$="0" THEN LET goto=X*820: GO TO goto
1360 GO TO 1290
1400 REM PRINT SCREENS
1404 CLS
1410 RANDOMIZE USR 61440
1417 PAUSE 100
1420 PRINT #0; AT 0,2; FLASH 1;"SPACE TO RETURN TO MAIN MENU":
PAUSE 90: RANDOMIZE USR 61440
1422 IF INKEY$=" " THEN GO TO 1
1430 GO TO 1422
1600 REM DEVICE FORMAT
1605 CLS
1610 PRINT AT 3,6,"PRESENT DEVICE :=";MDV
1620 INPUT "CHANGE (Y/N) ";D$
1630 IF D$="N" THEN GO TO 1
1640 INPUT "CHANGE TO WHAT ";MDV
1645 IF MDV<1 OR MDV>8 THEN GO TO 1640
1650 GO TO 1
3000 REM NORMAL SAVE
3010 CLS: PRINT "SAVING THE WHOLE SCREEN."
3020 RANDOMIZE USR 61440: POKE 60003,0: POKE 60004,27: POKE
60007,80: POKE 60008,195: RANDOMIZE USR 60000
3030 PRINT #0; AT 0,1; FLASH 1;"SAVING COMPLETE - PRESS A KEY"
3040 PAUSE 200: RANDOMIZE USR 61440: PAUSE 0: GO TO 1
4000 REM SAVE TOP HALF
4010 CLS: PRINT "SAVING THE TOP HALF OF SCREEN"
4020 RANDOMIZE USR 61440: POKE 60003,0: POKE 60004,12: POKE
60007,80: POKE 60008,195: RANDOMIZE USR 60000
4030 PRINT #0; AT 0,1; FLASH 1;"SAVING COMPLETE - PRESS A KEY"
4040 PAUSE 200: RANDOMIZE USR 61440: PAUSE 0: GO TO 1
4500 REM SAVE LOWER HALF
4510 CLS: PRINT "SAVING THE LOWER HALF OF SCREEN"
4520 RANDOMIZE USR 61440: POKE 60003,0: POKE 60004,12: POKE
60007,80: POKE 60008,207: RANDOMIZE USR 60000
4530 PRINT #0; AT 0,1; FLASH 1;"SAVING COMPLETE - PRESS A KEY"
4540 PAUSE 200: RANDOMIZE USR 61440: PAUSE 0: GO TO 1
5000 GOTO 4500
6000 CLS: PRINT "SAVING THE TOP THIRD OF SCREEN"
6010 RANDOMIZE USR 61440: POKE 60003,0: POKE 60004,8: POKE
60007,80: POKE 60008,195: RANDOMIZE USR 60000
6020 PRINT #0; AT 0,1; FLASH 1;"SAVING COMPLETE - PRESS A KEY"
6030 PAUSE 200: RANDOMIZE USR 61440: PAUSE 0: GO TO 1
7000 REM SAVING MIDDLE THIRD
7010 CLS: PRINT "SAVING THE MIDDLE THIRD OF SCREEN"
7020 RANDOMIZE USR 61440: POKE 60003,0: POKE 60004,8: POKE
60007,80: POKE 60008,203: RANDOMIZE USR 60000
7030 PRINT #0; AT 0,1; FLASH 1;"SAVING COMPLETE - PRESS A KEY"
7040 PAUSE 200: RANDOMIZE USR 61440: PAUSE 0: GO TO 1
```

THE FOLLOWING FORM IS FOR THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN
RECEIVING A LIBRARY TAPE. YOU <u>MUST</u> FILL THIS OUT AND RETURN IT
IF YOU WANT A TAPE MAILED TO YOU! This form is for those of you
that DON'T attend the meetings. There are 2 ways to get a copy
of the programs in our library: 1- Send a C-90 with your return
address and $1.00 (P&H) or 2- We will send you a tape that you
can keep for $3.00. (Make checks payable to The RAMTOP)
Thank You for your support of our group!
****
```
*                    * LIBRARY  TAPE  FORM *                *
*                                                           *
* NAME _____  PHONE _____-_____-_____ *
*                                   phone # is REQUIRED!    *
* ADDRESS _____                          *
*                                                           *
* CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ *
*                                                           *
*                                                           *
* TYPE OF COMPUTER YOU OWN: 1000/ZX-81 __ /1500 __ /2068 __ *
* check all that you have : QL __ OTHER _____   *
*                                                           *
* Do you have a DISK system: (type)_____ *
* Plese note that we request that the form be filled out as *
* completely as possible.                                   *
```
****
Mail the form along with your check ($1.00 or $3.00) to:
Dean Miller (Librarian) + It would be appreciated if you
29324 Park St.   + send us any noncopyrighted soft-
Wickliffe, OH, 44092   + ware!!! (Phone- 216-944-8630)

If you would like to subscribe to the RAMTOP please fill out
this form and send it to the listed address along with a check
for: $15/Year or $7.50/ 6 mo. to become a member of our Group
(Attend meetings, use library tapes Ect.) Please <u>make checks
payable</u> to the <u>RAMTOP!</u> (The phone # is only for our records!)
This INCLUDES useage of our TIMELINES BBS! (216-671-6922, 8-N-1)
Times of useage are 10PM to 6AM (EST) 7 days a week.
****
```
*Please print!  Enclosed: $_____ for 1 year __ / 6 months __*
*                                                              *
*NAME: _____ PHONE:_____-_____-_____     *
*                                  We need your phone #        *
*STREET: _____ for our records!           *
*                                                              *
*CITY:_____ STATE:_____ ZIP:_____  *
*                                                              *
*Type of computer(s) and peripheral(s) you own: _____  *
*                                                              *
*_____   *
*       THANK YOU for your interest!   Please send to:         *
*Robert Parish, 12706 Leeila Ave., Cleveland, OH 44135         *
```
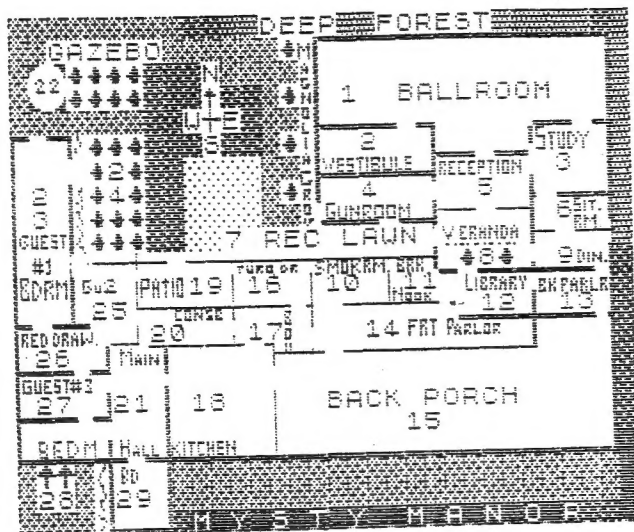**

DEEP FOREST

MYSTERY MANOR

Here is some art work from JOAN KEALY!

Who is this?

12

From:
THE GREATER CLEVELAND SINCLAIR USER GROUP
JAMES G. DUPUY (EDITOR OF THE **RAMTOP**)
6514 Bradley Ave. (DOWN)
Parma, Ohio   44129

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL